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**Minutes of the
New Bern Historic Preservation Commission
July 15, 2009**

The New Bern Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2009, in the Planning Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 248 Craven Street.

Members Present:

Peter Adolph, Vice-chair	Jack Morton, Jr., Chair
Richard Parsons	Jay Heck
Bradley Cummins	Johnny Harrison
Karen Britton	Peggy Broadway
Rich Frye	

Members Excused/Absent: NONE

Staff Present:

Annette Stone, AICP, City Planner
Leigh Anne Friesen, AICP, Volunteer

The meeting was opened and roll call was taken. A quorum was present. A motion to waive reading of past minutes was approved by Commissioner Heck, seconded by Commissioner Frye and received the unanimous vote of the Commission. The Minutes were approved upon unanimous vote for a motion by Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Adolph. Chairman Morton discussed the function and qualifications of the Historic Preservation Commission and its members. Witnesses were sworn in.

Witnesses Sworn: Jay Horton

New Business

- 1. Consider COA for the lot at the corner 601 Hancock Street for a brick privacy wall and expanded driveway.**

Staff Comments: Staff Annette Stone gave a description of the fence project.

Applicant's Comments: Landscape Architect Jay Horton described the proposed landscape renovations, including a brick fence, widened driveway, and entertaining area. Mr. Horton is hoping to minimize the decking needed and use older looking tiles in the hardscaping. The proposed brick for the wall will match the existing foundation, not the brick of the existing back brick wall. He mentioned plantings such as boxwood (arranged in formal hedging) and hydrangeas.

Public Comments: NONE

Discussion by the Commission: The Commissioners addressed issues such as the height of the lower brick wall to be used as the base for the picket fence, whether or not the wall will provide adequate privacy, the design of the wall as compared to similar fence on Johnson Street, picket material and treatment, use of clay pavers, permeability of driveway pavers, and the possibility of access door to proposed terrace from screened porch.

Finding of Fact: Commissioner Frye moved to find the application congruous with the Historic Preservation Guidelines, citing Section 15-427 Certificate of Appropriateness required; Section 15-429 Review Criteria, citing "Fences and Garden Walls", pages 78-79, guideline(s)#4, 5, and 6. Commissioner Adolph seconded. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Statements of Reason: 1) The fence materials include brick and wood pickets and 2) The fence does not exceed six feet in secondary areas of visual concern and four feet in primary areas.

Conditions:

- Applicant must return to Staff with the design of a screen door if owner decides to add terrace access point.
- Applicant must return to Staff with sample of the proposed brick for the brick wall.

Discussion on the Motion: None

Motion: Commissioner Cummins moved to issue the COA, seconded by Commissioner Heck. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion of Demolition by Neglect.

Staff Comments: Staff Ms. Stone updated the Commission regarding the current plan for addressing structures that are at risk of demolition by virtue of neglect. She noted that the public is welcomed to submit candidates for review. She mentioned two under review on Johnson Street (201 and 209), as well as possibilities on National Avenue and North Craven.

Public Comments: *Jerry Hobbins*, 229 New Street, submitted a written list to Ms. Stone. *Joe Mansfield* mentioned the condition of the mortar, roof, and windows at 313A & 313B George Street (Mulberry House), as well as 701 Broad Street.

Discussion by the Commission: Commissioners addressed topics such as whether or not the Train Depot could be pursued under this ordinance, as well as the current situation for 402 Queen Street, 817 North Craven Street and 221 East Front Street.

Miscellaneous Business

The Commission recognized outgoing Chair Diane Filipowicz for her service to the Commission.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jack Morton, Chair

Annette Stone, AICP
Commission Administrator